

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-7, 16-22 stand canceled.

The amendment leaves claims 8-15 pending.

Claim 8 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) or in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Sewell, Sr. U.S. Patent 4,149,862. Claim 8 has been amended to further focus the invention, including particular distinction over Sewell, Sr. '862, and consideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Amended claim 8 further defines the inlet and outlet structure of the defined serviceable exhaust aftertreatment device (10), including particular requirements as to both the inlet cylindrical body (22) and the outlet cylindrical body (26) and their combination with the central cylindrical body (24). The now focused and particularly defined structural combination, noted in further detail below, is believed to clearly distinguish and separate from Sewell, Sr. '862 and be novel and non-obvious thereover.

Sewell, Sr. '862 shows a filter casing 10 including a cylindrical body portion 12, a gas entrance end structure 14 and a gas exit end structure 16, Col. 2, lines 13-15. As noted as Col. 2, lines 20-22, "the present invention makes possible the use of a plain carbon steel in the body portion 12 and end structure 16, the latter being protected by part of the cartridge". A spacing member 18 coextensive with shell 12 fits snugly within the shell and snugly receives a filter cartridge 20. Entrance end structure 14 is in the form of a cap having screw threaded flanges 30 mating with screw threads formed in the end of shell 12, Col. 2, lines 47-51. A spacing element 42 carried by the end structure 14 acts as a stop for filter cartridge 20 in spaced relation to end structure 14, thereby forming a gas distributing plenum 43, Col. 2, lines 61-64. The discharge end structure 16 is a cap with threaded flanges 46 co-acting with threads in the end of shell 12, Col. 3, lines 2-5. The discharge end of filter cartridge 20 is closed by diaphragm 56 carrying an inwardly projecting neck 58 in which are formed female screw

threads which mate with those on neck 54 extending inwardly from end structure 16. The filter cartridge is changed by unscrewing end structure 16, and then screwing a fresh filter cartridge onto threaded neck 54 for insertion into casing 10, Col. 3, lines 21-23. In contrast, claim 8 requires that the exhaust aftertreatment device be serviced by axially sliding the inlet and central cylindrical bodies (22, 24) away from each other and axially sliding the central and outlet cylindrical bodies (22, 24) away from each other.

Continuing in Sewell, Sr. '862, it is noted at Col. 3, lines 43-47, that "the novel form of filter cartridge designed to co-act with the cartridge holding casing 10 of the present invention is one in which porous layers of absorbent and adsorbent filtering material are alternated in such a way that the filter is gas permeable longitudinally from plenum chamber 43 and radially from passages 24". Accordingly, the exhaust flow path in Sewell, Sr. '862 is axially inwardly into inlet plenum 43 and radially from passages 24 and then axially through outlet opening 50. In contrast, claim 8 requires both an inlet plenum and an outlet plenum defined by respective axially extending sidewalls (68, 86) of both an inlet cylindrical body (22) and an outlet cylindrical body (26), as will now be particularly pointed out.

Amended claim 8 requires that the inlet cylindrical body (22) have an inlet pipe (18) extending axially in a first axial direction (leftward in Fig. 1) therefrom from the upstream axial end (48) thereof, and requires that the outlet cylindrical body (26) have an outlet pipe (20) extending axially in a second axial direction (rightward in Fig. 1) therefrom from the downstream axial end (58) thereof, and that the noted first and second axial directions be opposite to each other. Amended claim 8 requires that the inlet cylindrical body (22) define an axially extending inlet plenum (at 68) therealong along an axially extending sidewall (68), and that the axially extending sidewall (68) of the inlet cylindrical body (22) extend axially between the noted distally opposite upstream and downstream axial ends (48, 50) of the inlet cylindrical body (22), and that the inlet plenum (at 68) extends axially between the inlet pipe (18) and the upstream axial end (52) of the central cylindrical body (24). Amended claim 8 further requires

Appl. No. 10/628,299
Amendment dated June 15, 2006
Reply to Office action of April 14, 2006

that the outlet cylindrical body (26) define an axially extending outlet plenum (at 86) therealong along an axially extending sidewall (86), and that the axially extending sidewall (86) of the outlet cylindrical body (26) extend axially between the noted distally opposite upstream and downstream axial ends (56, 58) of the outlet cylindrical body (26), and that the outlet plenum (at 86) extends axially between the downstream axial end (54) of the central cylindrical body (24) and the outlet pipe (20). This structure is entirely absent from Sewell, Sr. '862, and furthermore would not be obvious therefrom because it would require modification of Sewell, Sr. '862 contrary to the above noted stated purpose and motivation of Sewell, Sr. '862.

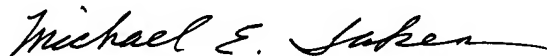
Consideration and allowance of amended claim 8 is respectfully requested.

Claims 9-15 depend directly or indirectly from claim 8 and are believed allowable for the reasons noted above. Furthermore, these claims define subcombinations which are believed allowable.

It is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance with claims 8-15, and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

ANDRUS, SCEALES, STARKE & SAWALL, LLP



Michael E. Taken
(Reg. No. 28,120)

100 East Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 1100
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202
(414) 271-7590